

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A call processing method, including:
 - receiving a user initiated communications call;
 - processing characteristic data associated with the communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;
 - passing said characteristic data to a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) when said service data is required;
 - processing at least part of said characteristic data by said VIN to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol, said service data and said communication protocol being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN);
 - obtaining said service data from said network location in accordance with said protocol and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call; and
 - establishing said call based on said service.
2. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, including storing said service data in said VIN for subsequent requests for said service data.
3. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 2, including deleting said service data from said VIN after a predetermined period of time.
4. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HIN is in a central IN service data database.
5. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HIN is in a local mobile network.
6. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HIN is in a foreign telecommunications network.
7. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said VIN is local to a user originating said call.
8. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said VIN includes computer logic configured to:

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communicate with said HIN so as to obtain said service data;
cache said service data for users in ~~the~~ a service area of said VIN; and
function as a Service Data Point (SDP).

9. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said HIN includes a central IN service data database, and is configured to function as a Service Control Point (SCP).

10. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said communications call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

11. (Previously Presented) A network system having:

a network switch for receiving a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call; and

a network Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said VIN being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol, said service data and said communication protocol being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN),

wherein said VIN is adapted to receive said service data from said network location in accordance with said protocol and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data.

12. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN stores said service data for subsequent requests for said service data.

13. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said VIN deletes said service data after a predetermined period of time.

14. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said HIN is in a central IN service data database.

15. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said HIN is in a local mobile network.

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16. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said HIN is in a foreign telecommunications network.

17. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN is local to a user originating said call.

18. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN includes computer logic configured to:

communicate with said HIN so as to obtain said service data;

cache said service data for users in ~~the~~ a service area of said VIN; and

function as a Service Data Point (SDP).

19. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said HIN includes a central IN service data database, and is configured to function as a Service Control Point (SCP).

20. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in any one of claims 11-19, wherein said communication call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

21. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, including a plurality of said VINs covering respective areas.

22. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is public mobility data.

23. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is terminal network selection data.

24. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN includes means for policing messages passed between networks.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

26. (Previously Presented) A network of system according to claim 11, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a user initiated communications call, the method comprising: call processing method, including:

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receiving a user initiated communications call;

processing characteristic data associated with the communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

passing said characteristic data to a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) when said service data is required;

processing at least part of said characteristic data by said VIN to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol, said service data and said communication protocol being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN), wherein said HIN comprises a central IN service data database;

obtaining said service data from said HIN and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call by using VIN computer logic; and

caching the service data in the VIN computer logic.

28. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch for receiving a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said VIN being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol, said service data and said communication protocol being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN); and

computer logic included in the VIN, the VIN computer logic configured to obtain said service data in accordance with said protocol and to cache said service data for users in ~~the~~ a service area of the VIN, the VIN computer logic further configured to communicate with the network switch in any of a plurality of protocols; wherein said

VIN is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data.

29. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said VIN being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol, said service data and said communication protocol being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN),

wherein said VIN is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data; and

wherein said VIN is also adapted to cache service data for users connected to the VIN.

30. (Previously Presented) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the HIN is configured to function as a Service Data Point (SDP) and as a Service Control Point (SCP), and the VIN is configured to function as an SDP and as a SCP.

31. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said VIN is configured to receive said service data from said HIN for said user initiated call, and is configured to not receive IN service data for a second user in ~~the~~ a service area of the VIN, until said second user initiates a communications call requiring IN service data.

32. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the HIN is configured to function as a Service Data Point (SDP) and as a Service Control Point (SCP), and the VIN is configured to function as an SDP and as a SCP.

33. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN is configured to receive said service data from said HIN for said user initiated call, and is

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configured to not receive IN service data for a second user in the service area of the VIN, until said second user initiates a communications call requiring IN service data.